

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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O 292053Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7515

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIS, CA
SUBJECT: INTERIM FISHERIES AGREEMENT, FISHERIES MIN
LE BLANC COMMENT, MAY 29

REF: STATE 135979

1. MIN OF FISHERIES, ROMEO LE BLANC GAVE FOLLOWING
ANSWERS TO OPPOSITION QUESTIONS AT HOUSE OF COMMONS
QUESTION PERIOD, MAY 29.

2. OPPOSITION QUESTION: QUOTE: IN VIEW OF THE FACT
THAT NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON FRIDAY WHICH WAS THE
DEADLINE FOR THE SIGNING OF THE INTERIM AGREEMENT ON
CLOSING OF THE WASHINGTON COAST TO CANADIAN FISHERMEN,
WILL THE MINISTER FOLLOW THROUGH WITH HIS THREAT GIVEN
IN THE HOUSE ON MAY 8 THAT "IF THE AMERICAN SIDE DOES
NOT LIVE UP TO THE AGREEMENT, THE CANADIAN SIDE WILL NOT
BE BOUND TO IT EITHER?"

3. LE BLANC: MR. SPEAKER, IN FACT THE NEGOTIATORS MET
FRIDAY. THEY EXCHANGED MESSAGES DURING THE WEEKEND. I
MET WITH THEM JUST BEFORE I CAME INTO THE HOUSE. THEY
WILL BE MEETING WITH THE COMMITTEE OF ADVISORS INVOLVING
FISHERMEN AND PROCESSORS, ETC. TOMORROW, AND I WILL
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PROBABLY MEET WITH THEM TOO, AND WE ARE KEEPING THIS
MATTER UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW. AT THE MOMENT, I AM NOT
ABLE TO MAKE A DEFINITIVE STATEMENT ON THIS.

4. OPPOSITION QUESTION: I WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE MIN
HOW LONG HE EXPECTS THE SWIFTSURE BANKS TO BE CLOSED TO
CANADIAN FISHERMEN AND ALSO WILL ANY COMPENSATION BE

FORTHCOMING FROM THE FED GOV TO THOSE CANADIAN FISHERMEN
AFFECTED BY THE NEEDLESS CLOSING OF THE BANKS? I WOULD
POINT OUT THAT THESE BANKS ARE ENTIRELY WITHIN CANADIAN
WATERS AND THE US DEMANDS THAT THEY BE CLOSED TO FURTHER
FISHING DESPITE THE FACT THAT CANADIAN CONSERVATIONISTS
HAVE STATED THAT THEY NEED NOT BE CLOSED.

5. LE BLANC. MR SPEAKER, THE HONORABLE MEMBER WHO IS
VERY FAMILIAR WITH THESE THINGS WILL RECOGNIZE THAT THE
PROBLEM OF SWIFTSURE IS THE INTERCEPTION OF SALMON EITHER
OF AMERICAN ORIGIN OR HEADING FOR AMERICAN RIVERS. THAT
IS VERY MUCH THE PROBLEM OF INTERCEPTION. OBVIOUSLY,
IF THE TEMPORARY AGREEMENT CANNOT BE HELD TOGETHER, IF IT
CANNOT OBVIOUSLY SURVIVE THE PRESENT DIFFICULTIES WE WILL
REASSESS THAT CLOSING. END QUOTE. ENDERS

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